

King County Forestland - 2001

The following information provides an update on the status of King County's forestland and the successes of the County's incentive programs geared toward forest conservation at the close of 2001. This information is a follow-up to previous Forest Monitoring Reports published for the years 1996 – 1999. The 1996 report provides baseline conditions, and the 1999 report provides a more thorough summary of the current ownership status of forestland in the County, as well as an analysis of the forestland parcelization that occurred between 1996 and 1999. This report attempts to provide answers to the most commonly asked questions about King County forestland and the Forestry program. The report does not go into the same depth as previous reports, as staff decided that it is not necessary to analyze parcelization on an annual basis, as the change over the course of a single year is not significant.

This report also provides summary information for the newly established Rural Forest Focus Areas (RFFAs). The RFFAs were created as part of the 2000 King County Comprehensive Plan to map those areas within the Rural Area of the County that still contain predominantly forested lots 20 acres and larger. The intent of the RFFAs is not to establish regulations specific to these areas, but rather to identify them as areas where the Forestry Program will focus its efforts to conserve rural forestland. The RFFAs take the place of the former Rural Forest District. This report will serve as a baseline for measuring parcelization in the RFFAs in the future.

Rural Forest Focus Areas – December, 2001

RFFA	Parcels	Acres	Owners	Publicly owned parcels	Publicly owned acres	Percent publicly owned	Parcels >19 acres	Acres in parcels >19 acres	Percent of area in parcels >19 acres
Bear Creek	68	604	46	9	119	20%	11	264	44%
West Wall Snoqualmie	472	4560	355	29	674	15%	109	2979	65%
Lake Joy	896	6250	683	36	409	6%	179	3940	63%
East Wall Snoqualmie	337	4574	250	19	226	5%	43	3282	72%
Mitchell Hill	845	9027	585	131	4642	51%	158	6339	70%
South Fork Snoqualmie	722	4261	557	45	962	23%	45	1919	45%
Issaquah Creek	156	2628	107	38	1690	64%	51	2143	82%
Cedar River / Ravensdale	1663	11,313	1156	58	1653	15%	180	6626	59%
West Black Diamond	304	2837	228	5	87	3%	64	2249	79%
Green River	497	5383	247	41	1133	21%	102	3460	65%

Forest Production District – December, 2001

Zone	Parcels	Acres	Owners	Publicly owned parcels	Publicly owned acres	Percent publicly owned	Parcels >19 acres	Acres in parcels >19 acres	Percent of area in parcels >19 acres
FPD	4378	822,448	954	1930	549,718	67%	2941	815,992	99%

Public Land outside the RFFAs and FPD (and outside the UGA) – December, 2001*

Parcels	Acres	Owners	Parcels > 19 acres	Acres in parcels > 19 acres	Percent of area in parcels >19 acres
1408	24,191	17	327	20,581	85%

*May or may not be forested. Data on forest cover not yet available.

Current Use Taxation

There are three categories of current use taxation programs related to forestlands: Forestland (RCW84.33), Timberland (RCW84.34) and the forest stewardship land category of the Public Benefit Rating System (PBRs) (RCW84.34). The Forestland Program is available to landowners with at least 20 acres of land devoted to forestry. The Timberland Program is available to landowners with between 5 and 20 acres of forestland and requires a forest management plan. The forest stewardship land category of the PBRs program is available to landowners with at least four acres of forestland and requires a forest stewardship plan. Typically, a property in the Timberlands or PBRs Program has some acreage reserved for a home site or agricultural area, and the remaining acreage is managed as forest and enrolled in the program.

Current Use Taxation – Forestland statistics – Dec 2001

	Parcels	Owners	Total acres	Acres in program
Forest CUT	1925	354	276,813	276,300
Timberland	317	200	3411	2822
PBRs Forest Catagory	46	36	NA	263

Technical Assistance and Education

The King County technical assistance foresters completed their fourth full year of employment in 2001. Their role is to assist landowners with forest management plans, promote the forest incentive programs, teach classes, and respond to a variety of landowner questions and needs. The education component of the forestry program continues as an interdepartmental effort with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State University Cooperative Extension-King County, KCDDDES and KCDNR all participating. The Forest Stewardship Planning class coaches landowners through the process of developing their own forest management plans.

Technical Assistance Data – 2000 and 2001

2000

	People	Parcels	Acres
On site visits	95	147	NA
Management plan	37	48	759
Forest Stewardship Class	56	41	664
Phone contacts	141	NA	NA

2001

	People	Parcels	Acres
On site visits	42	71	NA
Management plan	17	21	269
Forest Stewardship Class	30	38	439
Phone contacts	162	NA	NA